



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State recognizes that providing students access to higher education helps strengthen the foundation on which our state and nation are built, providing the innovation, creativity, and intellect necessary for our continued growth as a society and as a global leader; and

Whereas, the benefits of higher education extend beyond individual success, contributing to a more educated workforce, promoting civic engagement, advancing health and well-being, and fostering economic development; and

Whereas, all residents of New York State deserve the opportunity to pursue higher education and earn post-secondary degrees that allow them to achieve personal goals and obtain meaningful employment in today's diverse job market; and

Whereas, all potential students and current attendees of higher education institutions should be aware and informed of the various forms of financial aid available to them, including federal PELL grants, the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), the Excelsior Scholarship and other valuable scholarships; and

Whereas, the barriers to higher education can be mitigated through the awareness and utilization of financial resources, thereby leveling the playing field for all aspiring students regardless of their socioeconomic background, and student financial aid programs provide access to higher education opportunities for hundreds of thousands of underserved New York State students each year who might not otherwise attend; and

Whereas, the completion of financial aid applications, including the Free Application for Financial Aid or the DREAM Act application for undocumented or non-citizen students and the New York State Application for TAP, is a critical step in securing college funding, and New York State is committed to improving the awareness and understanding of these processes among students, families, and educators; and

Whereas, the Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) is steadfast in its mission to ensure that college is accessible and affordable for students in every region of the state, providing invaluable resources, guidance, and support for college financial planning; and

Whereas, students who seek higher education in New York State can find additional information and assistance with financial aid through public and private sector partners that advocate for higher education opportunities – the City University of New York, the State University of New York, the New York State Education Department, the Commission on Independent Colleges & Universities, and the Association of Private Colleges – all of which make valuable resources of support available to students, both on-campus and online; and

Whereas, New York State's generous investments in student financial aid, including more than two dozen grant, scholarship, and loan forgiveness programs, helped over 176,000 New York State residents attend SUNY and CUNY tuition-free in Academic Year 2022-23, with 52 percent at SUNY State-operated campuses and 67 percent at CUNY senior colleges; in the same academic year, more than 65,000 students at private universities, colleges, and business schools received TAP awards; and

Whereas, New York State recognizes that fostering financial aid awareness is a collaborative effort that involves schools, communities, and organizations working together to provide students with the tools they need to achieve educational success; the observance of Financial Aid Awareness Month highlights the meaningful difference that financial assistance can make in the lives and career aspirations of students by opening doors of educational and professional opportunity;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 2024 as

NEW YORK FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this second day of April in the year two thousand twenty-four.

Kathy Hochul
Governor

Karen Persichilli Keogh
Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh